of typhoid was not detected, but there was nevertheless abundant proof of fecal contamination. As the report truly says, "The specific pollution of typhoid fever, which is certainly beyond the reach of chemistry and also of bacteriology to detect, may escape detection in a water in which it is nevertheless present. Further, it is to be borne in mind that detection of a specific pollution of a supply may come too late to prevent the consumption of the contaminated water."

There were many cases of the disease that could not be attributed directly to the Farleigh water, especially those which appeared a long time after the shutting off of the supply, and these cases must be put down as of various unknown origin—direct contact, soil pollution and defective sewerage, for instance. That the committee was justified in having "no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that the epidemic was caused by pollution of the water supplied by the Maidstone Company from their Farleigh sources" is sufficiently shown by the fact that 27.5 per cent. of the houses supplied by Farleigh water were invaded by the disease, and 8.08 per cent. of the persons living in them were attacked, while the corresponding figures for the two other water sources (Crossington Springs and Boarley Springs) were 2.80 and 0.86, and 4.46 and 0.97, respectively.

Harben Lectures.—The Harben Lectures for the year 1898 were delivered by Sir R. Thorne-Thorne, K.C.B., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., Medical Officer to the Local Government Board and a member of the Late Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, who took for his subject the "Administrative Control of Tuberculosis" as applicable to the prevention of disease. The mortality from tubercular diseases collectively had, he showed by tables taken from the report of the commissioners, undergone a progressive decline at all ages during the thirty years of sanitary and social progress inaugurated by the rise of public-health legislation in the sixties, the total reduction amounting to about 30 per cent. In the case of phthisis it is even greater, having for the most productive and procreative period of life reached no less than 50 per cent. of what it was forty years ago. This improvement had begun and advanced rapidly before the infectious character of tuberculosis was suspected, when it was held to be hereditary and the inevitable destiny of persons born of phthisical parents or cursed with the taint or diathesis. The lecturer expressed hope that the pulmonary form which had proved the most amenable to sanitary and social improvement may, in the not distant future, be almost extinguished; and while noting that tabes mesenterica among infants under one year of age has, far from diminishing, increased in the same period by over 21 per cent., he encouraged the belief that even more brilliant results than are possible in phthisis may be achieved in this form of the disease.

Among the causes that have directly or indirectly contributed to the reduction of tuberculosis in general, and of phthisis in particular, are the extension of drainage in town and country, and consequent drying of the soil, the better ventilation of houses and workshops, the lesser overcrowding, and the better food, clothing, and standard of living among the mass of the people. But infants and young children in general benefit by improved sanitary surroundings even more than adults, much of whose time is passed out of doors;

and it is clear that the cause of this exception to the general improvement must be sought in the different means by which the bacillus gains entrance to the body. In pulmonary tuberculosis the bacilli from dried sputa are inhaled with the dust, and if the public could be brought to realize the danger and the duty of abstaining from expectorating save into fire or water, phthisis might almost be abolished.

The mesenteric or intestinal form of the disease is set up by the ingestion of the living bacilli; it is rare in the adult except as secondary to phthisis—a self-infection through swallowing the sputa; the facts that adults do not suffer from it to any extent, and that infants do not eat meat, are sufficient, apart from the evidence of experiments, to show that this increase cannot be ascribed to the use of the flesh of tuberculous animals; but though mammary tubercle is extremely rare in the human female, it is frequently met with in the cow, when the milk sooner or later contains bacilli which rapidly multiply in it. Such milk might be taken with impunity into a perfectly healthy stomach; but infants—constantly liable when brought up by hand to gastro-intestinal catarrhs or other disturbances—are easily infected. There is no doubt that the number of infants fed throughout at the mother's breast is becoming less every year, and this increase of intestinal and mesenteric tubercle is concurrent with the increasing consumption of cow's milk. No doubt it could be taken with impunity if boiled, and this simple precaution would probably be the means of saving some 10,000 lives annually, or 12,000 at the least, if we include tubercular meningitis, which is, as a rule, secondary to tabes. Strict inspection of all cow-sheds, the enforcement of cleanliness, adequate ventilation, etc., and the gradual killing off of all diseased animals, with their separation meanwhile from the perfectly healthy, might well be undertaken by the authorities. But the lecturer believed that notification of tuberculosis in the case of man, with the consequent loss of employment, would be attended with disastrous results to the individual and indirectly to society, would lead to concealment and neglect of treatment while the disease is still curable, and would thus defeat the intention of the law. But the public should be educated in the etiology of tuberculosis and in the means for its prevention and cure, in the proper disposal of the expectoration of phthisical persons and the necessity for the sterilizing of all milk—at any rate of that employed in the feeding of infants; while the provision in every district of sanatoria for the treatment of cases of tubercular disease still capable of cure, and of hospitals for such as are hopeless and who, owing to their circumstances not permitting of the necessary degree of isolation, are a standing danger to their families, are in the highest degree desirable.

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